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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Richard  
4 W. "Rick" Larison Jr. of Rochester on Friday, April 29, 2005;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, He was born on August 8, 1950, in Springfield to  
7 Richard W. and Corabelle Bea Larison Sr.; he married Gaye  
8 Harper in 1987; he earned a Bachelor of Science in engineering  
9 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a  
10 Master of Public Administration from Fordham University in New  
11 York; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Larison began on the House Republican staff as  
13 a research analyst and later re-joined the staff of then House  
14 Republican Leader Lee Daniels in 1982 as Research Director; he  
15 was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff in 1987  
16 and later served as Chief of Staff for Leader Daniels; as one  
17 of the House Republican staff's pioneer research directors, he  
18 helped create the operational model that the research staff  
19 follows to this day, including the production of timely bill  
20 analyses and end-of-session reports to inform House members of  
21 key State issues and to enable them to cast informed votes on  
22 the House floor; and

23           WHEREAS, He served in an executive capacity during the  
24 installation of the first generation of electronic business  
25 equipment in House Republican staff offices, which allowed the  
26 electronic creation and dissemination of research materials  
27 and bill analyses through computer-controlled word processors;  
28 he oversaw the continuing education and transition of a large  
29 segment of House Republican staff from clerk-typists to their  
30 current role as executive assistants; throughout all of these  
31 potentially traumatic changes, Mr. Larison served as a  
32 generous, kind, jovial, and reassuring advocate for the

1 interests of staff amid the conflict and challenges of  
2 legislative work; and

3 WHEREAS, He went on to serve as a senior staffer for  
4 Governor George Ryan, as a legislative liaison, as a lobbyist  
5 for The School Reform Board, and as the Director of the Office  
6 of Statewide Performance Review; he was voted into the  
7 Legislative Staff Intern Hall of Fame in 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, The passing of Richard W. Larison Jr. has been  
9 deeply felt by many, especially his wife, Gaye; his daughter,  
10 Rachel Larison; his father, Richard; his sisters, Mary Kay  
11 (husband, Jerry) Gifford, Bonnie (husband, Tom) Day, and Brenda  
12 Larison; and his many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and  
13 cousins; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
15 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we mourn the passing of Richard W. "Rick" Larison Jr., and we  
17 extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all who  
18 knew and loved him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
20 presented to the family of Mr. Larison as an expression of our  
21 sincerest condolences during their time of bereavement.